

CLAIMS

- [c1] A method in a computer system for executing code during a system management mode interrupt, the method comprising:
- upon occurrence of a system management mode interrupt,
 - saving state of the computer system;
 - switching the computer system to protected mode;
 - executing 32-bit code that uses a global descriptor table that is different from the global descriptor table in use when the system management mode interrupt occurred; and
 - upon completion of the execution of the 32-bit code,
 - restoring the saved state of the computer system; and
 - returning from the occurrence of the interrupt.
- [c2] The method of claim 1 wherein the 32-bit code is an operating system kernel for loading and running programs during the occurrence of the system management mode interrupt.
- [c3] The method of claim 2 wherein the programs are Windows NT Portable Executable programs.
- [c4] The method of claim 1 wherein the computer system is based on an Intel Pentium processor.